

IMPRINT

AT BLOCK GALLERY

Imprint explores the intrinsic bond between time, place and the indelible mark of the past upon the present. Susan Brabeau, Ron Flory, and the accompanying display, *Here and Now—There and Then* of textile books, examine how the present becomes our history and how this metamorphosis shapes our future.

A self-taught painter, Susan Brabeau creates detailed and vivid depictions of scenes of everyday life from earlier times. Brabeau's work reads like a short story, with the figural expressions providing all of the dialogue. Idyllic scenes of the past contrast the hectic and constantly connected atmosphere of today. The paintings transport viewers through such memories as scenes of women in calico and pearls taste-testing cakes, a conversation exchanged by a mother and daughter through one concentrated look, or the mingling of neighbors outside a local church.

Ron Flory, also self-taught, uses film photography to create haunting and poignant images of a track of land in eastern Wake County that exists on borrowed time. The damming of Little River, as of now planned for 2025, will flood this existing area. The possibility of this impoundment has already altered the function of this physical space within the community, the environment, and the experiences and memories of those who visit and inhabit the area. Flory's images invite reflections on change, our ability or inability to shape the future, and how this waiting for impending action has created new connections between inhabitants of the area, those working on various aspects of the project, environmental groups, and those who would take advantage of land technically open to all.

Guest curator Janine LeBlanc has organized a display of handmade textile books for the gallery's display cases, a grouping titled *Here and Now—There and Then*. Featured artists are Peggy Clover, Susan Oliver Fennell, Christine Hager-Braun, Janine LeBlanc, Linda Lowe, and Georgia Springer. LeBlanc explains that these books look at the ties between emotions and home, and how this connection is altered by and changes the passage of time and our memories. Using various techniques, each artist approaches these ideas in a manner that is both a personal reflection and a commentary on the human experience.

—Hannah Costner, Block Gallery Coordinator

AT BLOCK2

A china teacup falls from the sky, shatters on the ground, reconstitutes itself, breaks again, more slowly, then again, faster, then again and again, until a music emerges—or rather, is coerced—from breaking this teacup down, transforming it into sound and image, making it give of itself in a way it was never meant to. What is it about this obsessed-over, meticulously planned catastrophe? Mustn't we always, and vigilantly, put our manners, our beauty, our desires, our privilege to the test, and find what endures?

—Neill Prewitt, Block2 Curator

BLOCK GALLERY AND BLOCK2 STREET VIDEO SERIES

For 28 years, the Block Gallery has served as a pivotal exhibition space in the City of Raleigh, connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach. Inaugurated in 2010, Block2 Street Video Series features films created by local video artists and community collaborations that relate to and expand upon the exhibitions and themes showcased at Block Gallery.

Gallery information, dates and times are subject to change. Any views or opinions expressed by artists and curators are solely of those individuals and do not necessarily represent the Raleigh Arts Commission.

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission proudly serves as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives. The Commission's myriad activities foster, support and promote the arts in the Capital City.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Joe Cebina
Jason Craighead
Gene Davis
Clyde Lundy
Nancy Novell
Sarah Powers
Bob Rankin
Richard Ruggero
Ann Tharrington

ARTS COMMISSION STAFF

Gerald Bolas, Executive Director
Sarah Corrin, Grants Coordinator
Hannah Costner, Block Gallery Coordinator
Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator
Carol Mallette, Administrative Assistant
Belva Parker, Arts Program Coordinator



To hear curators' and artists' comments on their work:

Susan Brabeau	919.996.5390
Ron Flory	919.996.5391
Janine LeBlanc	919.996.5392
Neill Prewitt	919.996.5387
David Colagiovanni & Melissa Haviland	919.996.5388



The City of Raleigh



raleigh arts
COMMISSION

Miriam Preston Block Gallery • 222 West Hargett St.
Raleigh, NC 27601 • M-F, 8:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
www.raleighnc.gov/arts

Block2 Street Video Series • 133 Fayetteville St.
(outside Urban Design Center)
Raleigh, NC 27601 • Daily, dusk–3 a.m.



Become a fan
www.facebook.com/blockgallery



Follow us on Twitter
@BlockGallery

April 12–May 21, 2012
Presented by City of Raleigh Arts Commission



BlockGallery



IMPRINT

April 12–May 21, 2012
Presented by City of Raleigh Arts Commission

SUSAN BRABEAU

“I like to paint my feelings and memories from days gone by. My home and heart are filled with generational family treasures and these help me to reconstruct my view of those sweet old days when life was not so complicated. I love to capture a child’s innocence, an older woman’s wisdom, all with a sense of humor. After twenty-five years of constant painting and exploring my craft, I am now only seeing a glimmer of what I can do as an artist.”

Susan Brabeau carries on her family’s artistic heritage, notably that of her great-grandfather, a well-known stone sculptor from Germany. With no artistic training, she holds a BS from Michigan State University. Much of her life training comes from being a big band singer and a New York actress. This past year brought her third Best of Show Award at the North Carolina State Fair and the Purchase Award from the Agricultural Commissioner. Brabeau also took First Place in the Fine Arts League of Cary’s 2011 *Juried Painting and Sculpture Exhibition*. Brabeau is a wife and mother and is devoted to the rescue and care of animals.

RON FLORY

“If all goes as planned, by 2025 Wake County will bring a new drinking water reservoir online to support a burgeoning human population. The Little River in eastern Wake County may someday be held behind a half-mile-long, forty-foot-tall concrete dam. The resulting 1,100-acre reservoir would flood the surrounding countryside to a height of two hundred and sixty feet above sea level, imposing a new order upon the land. Here is a photographic survey of a slow transformation within the natural ecosystem and rural community, with all its consequences and repercussions—a visual commentary on the inevitability of change.”

Ron Flory earned an AAS in architectural technology from Pitt Community College and has been an exhibiting photographer for over ten years. He is a self-taught photographer who still shoots film and has a working darkroom in his house. Over the past decade, Flory has garnered many awards for his photographs, including a 2008–2009 Regional Artist Grant from United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. His photographs have been included in *Precious Treasures*, *North Carolina 24/7*, *Black & White Photography* (UK), *Camera Arts Magazine* (Extended Online Edition) and *Light Leaks Magazine*.

A native of Ohio who has lived in North Carolina for over thirty years, Flory currently works in Wake County, where he resides with his spouse and their three children.

HERE AND NOW—THERE AND THEN

HANDMADE TEXTILE BOOKS IN THE SECOND-FLOOR CASES, GUEST-CURATED BY JANINE LeBLANC WITH ARTISTS PEGGY CLOVER, SUSAN OLIVER FENNELL, CHRISTINE HAGER-BRAUN, LINDA LOWE AND GEORGIA SPRINGER

“The Threads Textile Study Group formed in the late 1990s at Meredith College as a way for Georgia Springer’s studio art students to support their interest in textiles after graduation. Independently and collectively, the group has been exploring the possibilities of handmade books.

Each member has been exploring the notion of home and our emotional place in the world. The group’s books are about the experience of living—here and now; emotional limbo—here and there; memory—there and then; and trying to resolve the past—there and now.”

Janine LeBlanc earned a BFA in graphic design from Massachusetts College of Art and an MID with a textile concentration from the College of Design at North Carolina State University. She is currently working as a textile consultant for the Gregg Museum of Art and Design where she recently guest-curated the exhibit *Barkcloth, Bras & Bulletproof Cotton: The Powers of Costume*. In addition to making books, she is working on a series of bead weavings exploring the hidden past.

MUSIC FOR TEACUPS

“*Music for Teacups* is a composition in image and sound that recombines captured footage of falling and breaking teacups. The work explores issues of class, privilege, constraint, manners, family and beauty using a confined yet complex language.”

Melissa Haviland of Athens, OH and David Colagiovanni of Carrboro are artists who have collaborated on several projects, including *Music for Teacups*. Haviland holds an MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her artwork straddles the boundaries between printmaking and installation-performance, exploring lineage, ritual, and practice within objects that are gendered and classed. Colagiovanni has an MFA–Interdisciplinary from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and is a video and sound artist with interests in the reconfiguration of image and sound and the effects of gravity and immersion in virtual and physical space. He is currently the Artist in Residence at the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.

The collaborative work of Colagiovanni and Haviland includes artists’ books, zines, video and sound composition, photography, printmaking and music releases. During the summer of 2011, the two began work on *Dinner Music*, which features seven full sets of china, recorded in slow motion video and audio, falling and breaking onto a dining room table in a field in rural North Carolina. Upcoming and recent releases include a thirty-foot artists’ book and seven-inch EP from Small Craft Advisory Press; *Chopped and Stretched*, a compilation CD release from Drift Station; and *Coupling*, a compilation CD and book from Silent Media, based on the work of Stan Brakhage.

Images this page (top–bottom): Susan Brabeau, *And the Blue Ribbon Goes To*; David Colagiovanni & Melissa Haviland, *Music for Teacups*; Susan Oliver Fennell, *Tsukiji with Furoshiki* Image, verso: Ron Flory, *Detritus Still Life—Throw Away Your Television*, detail